

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Original): A lighting apparatus, comprising:

a lighting tube having a lighting tube main body, a seating portion provided at a basal end portion of said lighting tube main body, electrode terminals provided at said seating portion, and a connecting portion cover covering a connecting portion formed between said lighting tube main body and said seating portion in a hermetically sealed manner;

a socket into which said seating portion of said lighting tube is to be inserted to electrically connect said electrode terminals; and

an adapter casing having a socket accommodation space for accommodating said socket, said adapter casing being detachable connected to said connecting portion cover,

wherein said adaptor casing and said connecting portion cover are detachable connected in a state in which said socket into which said seating portion of said lighting tube is inserted is accommodated in said socket accommodation space, whereby said socket and said seating portion of said lighting tube are hermetically sealed by said adaptor casing and said connecting portion cover.

Claim 2 (Original): The lighting apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said connecting portion cover is formed of nonconductive resin and has a peripheral wall portion surrounding said connecting portion, and wherein sealing material of nonconductive resin is filled in a gap between said peripheral wall portion and said lighting tube main body, whereby said connecting portion cover and said lighting tube are hermetically sealed.

Claim 3 (Original): The lighting apparatus as recited in claim 2, wherein said sealing material is silicone resin.

Claim 4 (Original): The lighting apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein a sealing packing is disposed between said adapter casing and said connecting portion cover.

Claim 5 (Original): The lighting apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said adapter casing has an outwardly extending flange portion and said connecting portion cover has an outwardly protruding flange portion, wherein said flange portion of said adapter casing and said flange portion of said connecting portion cover are connected via a sealing packing with a tightening member.

Claim 6 (Original): The lighting apparatus as recited in claim 5, wherein said adapter casing is a box-shaped casing of nonconductive resin and has a power cord passing aperture through which

the power cord is introduced into said adapter casing via a sealing bush in a hermetically sealed manner.

Claim 7 (Original): The lighting apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said adaptor casing is provided with an attaching portion for detachably attaching said adaptor casing to a certain portion where said lighting apparatus is to be attached.

Claim 8 (Original): A lighting apparatus, comprising:

a lighting tube having lighting tube main body, a seating portion provided at a basal end portion of said lighting tube main body, electrode terminals provided at said seating portion, and a connecting portion cover covering a connecting portion formed between said lighting tube main body and said seating portion in a hermetically sealed manner;

a socket into which said seating portion of said lighting tube is to be inserted to electrically connect said electrode terminals; and

an adapter casing having a socket accommodation space for accommodating said socket, said adapter casing being detachably connected to said connecting portion cover;

wherein said connecting portion cover is formed of nonconductive resin and has a peripheral wall portion surrounding said connecting portion and an outwardly extending flange portion, and sealing material of nonconductive resin is filled in a gap between said peripheral wall portion and

said lighting tube main body, whereby said connecting portion cover and said lighting tube are hermetically sealed;

wherein said adapter casing is a box-shaped casing made of nonconductive resin and has an outwardly extending flange portion,

wherein said flange portion of said adapter casing and said flange portion of said connecting portion cover are detachably connected via a sealing packing with a tightening member in a state in which said socket into which said seating portion of said lighting tube is inserted is accommodated in said socket accommodation space, whereby said socket and said seating portion of said lighting tube are hermetically sealed in a space surrounded by said adaptor casing and said connecting portion cover, and

wherein said adapter casing has a power cord penetrating aperture through which a power cord is introduced into said adapter casing via a sealing bush in a hermetically sealed manner.

Claim 9 (original): A lighting tube, comprising:

a lighting tube main body;

a seating portion provided at a basal end portion of said lighting tube main body;

electrode terminals provided at said seating portion; and

a connecting portion cover covering a connecting portion formed between said lighting tube main body and said seating portion in a hermetically sealed manner,

wherein said lighting tube is to be used with a socket into which said seating portion of said

lighting tube is to be inserted to electrically connect said electrode terminals, and an adapter casing having a socket accommodation space for accommodating said socket, said adapter casing being detachably connected to said connecting portion cover, and

wherein said adaptor casing and said connecting portion cover are to be detachably connected in a state in which said socket into which said seating portion of said lighting tube is inserted is accommodated in said socket accommodation space, whereby said socket and said seating portion of said lighting tube are to be hermetically sealed by said adaptor casing and said connecting portion cover.

Claim 10 (Original): The lighting tube as recited in claim 9, wherein said connecting portion cover is formed of nonconductive resin and has a peripheral wall portion surrounding said connecting portion, and wherein sealing material of nonconductive resin is filled in a gap between said peripheral wall portion and said lighting tube main body, whereby said connecting portion cover and said lighting tube are hermetically sealed.

Claim 11 (Original): The lighting tube as recited in claim 9, wherein said sealing material is silicone resin.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): An adaptor casing to be used with a lighting tube and a socket,

wherein said lighting tube has a lighting tube main body, a seating portion provided at a basal end portion of said lighting tube main body, electrode terminals provided at said seating portion, and a connecting portion cover covering a connecting portion formed between said lighting tube main body and said seating portion in a hermetically sealed manner,

wherein said seating portion is to be inserted into said socket ~~is to be inserted by said seating portion~~ of said lighting tube to electrically connect said electrode terminals, and

wherein said adapter casing has a socket accommodation space for accommodating said socket, said adapter casing ~~being~~ arranged to be detachably connected to said connecting portion cover,

wherein said adaptor casing and said connection portion cover are to be detachably connected in a state in which said socket into which said seating portion of said lighting tube is inserted is accommodated in said socket accommodation space, whereby said socket and said seating portion of said lighting tube are to be hermetically sealed by said adaptor casing and said connecting portion cover.

Claim 13. (Original): The adaptor casing as recited in claim 12, wherein a sealing packing is disposed between said adapter casing and said connecting portion cover.

Claim 14 (Original): The adaptor casing as recited in claim 12, wherein said adapter casing has an outwardly extending flange portion and said connecting portion cover has an outwardly protruding flange portion, wherein said flange portion of said adapter casing is to be connected to said flange portion of said connecting portion cover via a sealing packing with a tightening member.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): An adaptor for use in a lighting apparatus for attaching a lighting tube, said adaptor, comprising:

a socket; and

an adaptor casing,

wherein said lighting tube has a lighting tube main body, a seating portion provided at a basal end portion of said lighting tube main body, electrode terminals provided at said seating portion formed between said lighting tube main body and said seating portion in a hermetically sealed manner,

wherein said seating portion is to be inserted into said socket ~~a socket is to be inserted by said seating portion~~ of said lighting tube to electrically connect said electrode terminals; and

wherein said adapter casing has a socket accommodation space for accommodating said socket, said adapter casing ~~being~~ arranged to be detachably connected to said connecting portion cover, and

wherein said adaptor casing and said connecting portion cover are to be detachably connected in a state in which said socket into which said seating portion of said lighting tube is inserted is

accommodated in said socket accommodation space, whereby said socket and said seating portion of said lighting tube are to be hermetically sealed by said adaptor casing and said connecting portion cover.

Claim 16 (Original): The adaptor as recited in claim 15, wherein a sealing packing is to be disposed between said adapter casing and said connecting portion cover.

Claim 17 (Original): The adaptor as recited in claim 16, wherein said adapter casing has an outwardly extending flange portion and said connecting portion cover has an outwardly protruding flange portion, wherein said flange portion of said adapter casing and said flange portion of said connecting portion cover are to be connected via a sealing packing with a tightening member.

Claim 18 (Original): The adaptor as recited in claim 17, wherein said adapter casing is a box-shaped casing of nonconductive resin and has a power cord passing aperture through which the power cord is introduced into said casing via a sealing bush in a hermetically sealed manner.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): The adaptor as recited in claim ~~1~~ 15, wherein said adaptor casing is provided with an attaching portion for detachably attaching to a certain portion where said lighting apparatus is to be attached.